

Claims

1. A method for detecting defects in, and/or geometrical characteristics of, at least one joint or splice of sheet pieces, in a unloaded state, characterised by the following steps:
 - a. subjecting two consecutive margins or end edges of said sheet pieces to a non-unidirectional electromagnetic radiation;
 - b. performing a two-dimensional detection of the radiation reflected or refracted by said consecutive margins or end edges;
 - c. generating output signals corresponding to said two-dimensional detection;
 - d. determining the geometrical characteristics of at least part of said joint or splice, by analysing said output signals.

13. Apparatus for detecting defects or geometrical characteristics in joints or splices of sheet pieces in a unloaded state, according to the method claimed in any one of the preceding Claims, the apparatus comprising:
 - a. at least one source of electromagnetic radiations which are suited to be directed towards two consecutive margins or end edges of the sheet pieces;
 - b. one or more sensors which can detect the radiation reflected or refracted by said at least one joint or splice;
 - c. said at least one radiation source is a source of electromagnetic non-unidirectional radiations; and
 - d. said one or more sensors make a two-dimensional detection of said reflected or refracted radiation.